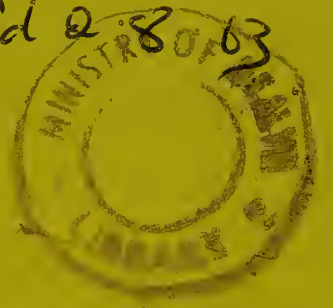




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# WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1961



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1961

**To the Chairman and Members of  
Wednesfield Urban District Council**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Wednesfield for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

For the greater part of the year under review my predecessor, Dr. P. J. C. Walker, was in office and I myself succeeded to the post on October 2nd. Accordingly the mode of presentation established by Dr. Walker has been retained for the greater part of this report with comment on the various sections where appropriate.

There are no major changes to be reported affecting the life and welfare of Wednesfield's people. The routine work of the Public Health Department continued in its multitudinous facets and it is particularly pleasant to be able to record that work in connection with the establishment of smoke control areas was going vigorously ahead though no new ones came into operation during the year. A tremendous amount of detailed preparatory work is required before a smoke control area can be approved and brought into operation and the public health inspectorate coped gallantly with the greatly increased volume of work resulting from this and all praise is due to their efforts. The ultimate advantage to the people of Wednesfield will be great and it is to be regretted only that although we are removing the visible pollution from the atmosphere, invisible pollution will remain—Clean Air is not Pure Air. Efforts are being made to reduce the invisible pollution particularly by reducing the emission of sulphur dioxide but it does not seem likely that complete success in this respect will ever be attained until the use of fossil fuels (coal, oil) in small domestic units becomes uneconomic or unacceptable.

During the year steady progress was made in all directions, not least being the population figures. One of the highest birth rates in the country for districts of comparable size combined with overspill intake to produce an increase in the estimated mid-year population of 1,660, a 5.3% increase. Needless to say this situation is reflected in the increased work demanded of the County's Health and Welfare and Education Services and in the Council's concern to see that the services provided have been adequate. It is commonly and rightly held that sizeable new communities should be developed not just as a collection of dwelling spaces but ideally as an integrated whole with provision of not only shops but of play space for children, centres for community activities, schools etc., and I would give it as my opinion that the early establishment of infant welfare clinics in particular can often play a very useful role in these new communities not merely by reason of the medical services centred on them but also because of the common meeting ground it provides for so many mothers who have at last been provided with decent accommodation but too often deprived of their old social relationships and needing to establish new ones for the sake of themselves and their families.

In conclusion, the state of the population's health as reflected in the vital statistics is quite satisfactory and gives no cause for concern, though certainly not for complacency either.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. E. BAINES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

*Chairman, Public Health Committee, Wednesfield U.D.C.*

COUNCILLOR H. P. FITZMAURICE.

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR M. P. RYAN.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

P. J. C. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Resigned 1.10.61).

J. H. E. BAINES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 2.10.61).

*Chief Public Health Inspector :*

P. H. G. GRIMMETT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.I.S.A.A.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :*

A. L. MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

*Additional Public Health Inspector :*

A. G. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 30.9.61).

*Pupil Public Health Inspector :*

T. TOWNSEND.

*Shorthand-Typists :*

MRS. M. J. MITCHELL and MRS. A. C. BAILEY.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Area (mid-year) :	2.515 Acres
Estimated Population :	33,180
Rateable Value :	£350,297
General Rate (1961-62) :	£1. 1s. 2d.
Penny Rate :	£1,509

I am indebted to the Rating Department for the following information :

Total Number of Houses on Rate Book (1st June, 1961)	.....	9,755
„ „ „ and Surgeries	.....	14
„ „ „ and Shops	.....	112
„ „ Separate Offices	.....	12
„ „ Workshops	.....	34
„ „ Factories	.....	85
„ „ Licensed Premises	.....	24

The District is bounded on its Northern Aspect by Cannock Rural District ; on the North Western and South Western sides by the County Borough of Wolverhampton and on the South East, East and North East by Willenhall Urban District.

The Elevation is considerably higher than the majority of its environs and is about 500 ft. above sea level.

The inhabitants are engaged in a variety of trades which represent a typical cross-section of the Black Country community, i.e., iron and steel workers, foundry workers, coal miners, etc. Occupations more peculiar to the district include keysmiths, locksmiths and steel trap makers.

The general health of the population is satisfactory.



## VITAL STATISTICS

(Figures in Parentheses indicate 1960 Statistics)

Estimated Mid-Year Population 33,180 (31,520)

### BIRTHS

Live Births				Male	Female		
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	417	388		
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	14	13		
				<hr/> 431	<hr/> 401	Total	832 (792)
				<hr/>	<hr/>		
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population						25.08	(25.13)
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population							
(area comparability factor 0.84)						21.07	(21.11)
Stillbirths				Male	Female		
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	2	7		
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	1	3		
				<hr/> 3	<hr/> 10	Total	13 (16)
				<hr/>	<hr/>		
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths						15.4	(19.8)
Total births						845	(808)
Illegitimate births as a percentage of all births						3.7	(3.3)

### INFANT MORTALITY

Total deaths under one year of age	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	(13)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	24.0	(16.4)
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births)	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.2	(12.6)
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births)	.....	.....	.....	.....	14.4	(12.6)
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	.....	.....	.....	.....	29.6	(32.2)
Number of children surviving to age one year per 1,000 viable pregnancies	.....	.....	.....	.....	Male 961	
					Female 961	
					Com-bined 961	(964)

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
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DEATHS (All causes)	.....	.....	.....	.....	Male	125	
					Female	98	
					Total	<hr/> 223	(188)
						<hr/>	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population						6.7	(6.0)
Corrected death rate (area comparability factor 1.86)						12.5	(11.0)

EXCESS OF LIVE BIRTHS OVER DEATHS	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	609	(604)
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## Notes on Vital Statistics

Minor alterations have been made in the presentation of the statistics. For instance, the total number of illegitimate births is too small to enable any reliable calculation of stillbirth and infant mortality rates for this group to be made, and therefore the legitimate and illegitimate groups have been combined for these calculations though it should be borne in mind that a small but definite greater risk attends the birth and early life of the illegitimate child so that the combined infant mortality rate will on average be a little higher than for legitimate births alone. I have introduced the concept of the proportion of children surviving to one year of age as giving a very useful and easily comprehensible picture of the overall effect of the various causes of stillbirths and infant deaths. It is useful, too, in that it serves as a reminder that stillbirths and early infant deaths are often due to basically the same cause.

Such changes as have occurred in the various rates cannot be held to be of great significance. The estimated mid-year population shows an increase of 1,660 over the previous years of which over one third is due to the excess of births over deaths, the remainder being due to inward movement into the district. The increase in population is, therefore, less than in the previous year and the birth rate itself shows a very small decrease which may herald the beginning of the decline to more normal levels. The infant mortality rate has risen but, on the other hand, the stillbirth rate has fallen so that the chances of a viable foetus surviving to one year have little changed. It should be noted in addition that last year's infant mortality experience was an exceptionally good one and this year's figures include the deaths of two children of such extreme prematurity that their viability must be considered to have been doubtful. The infant deaths have been due to a wide variety of causes (see Table I) including a high proportion of congenital abnormalities as expected, though so far as is known none of these abnormalities was due to the taking of thalidomide or any other drug. In several cases more than one cause was operating to cause death even though only one cause has been recorded, e.g., two deaths not so recorded were associated with congenital abnormality, one with prematurity and one with rhesus incompatibility.

An increase in the illegitimacy rate has again been experienced but the increase is small and cannot necessarily be assumed to be of significance. In any event the figure compares favourably with the national average for 1961 of 6.0% (calculated for live births only) but it should be borne in mind that, conversely, in Wednesfield, 96.3% of births were legitimate. Frankly I do not think it is very profitable to compare Wednesfield's present with past experience



since there have been great changes in the structure of Wednesfield's population in recent years and a steady increase in the illegitimacy rate to one nearer the national average would not surprise me at all. The alarm occasioned by a rising illegitimacy rate on a national scale is in part due to the fear that it in some way gives an indication of a widespread promiscuity among young people which is of recent origin, but this view may be quite incorrect. Opinions and rumours based on isolated examples and hearsay evidence abound, but in fact our ignorance of the sexual customs of our society is profound and hardly less so than in previous times. We all know that the outward show often fails to reflect reality. It is quite astonishing how persons who would not pretend to any knowledge of the sexual habits of their closest relatives and neighbours nevertheless feel free to judge the behaviour of many thousands of people upon whom they have never set eyes. Unfortunately, if it is true that young people have a great desire to conform with the customs of their contemporaries, I cannot imagine anything better calculated to encourage promiscuity than the constant assertion that it is already a fact. Finally, let us bear in mind that it is far from true that all mothers of illegitimate babies are youngsters, though unfortunately statistics regarding this particular district are not available in a form which would enable me to illustrate this from local experience.

There were 35 more deaths in 1961 than in 1960 causing a small increase in the death rate which cannot be assumed to be of importance. By far the greater part of deaths were again due to a variety of "degenerative" diseases among the middle aged and even more particularly among the old. Deaths from degenerative diseases of the cardio-vascular system (coronary disease, hypertension, strokes, etc.), and from malignancies, mainly in the middle aged and old, alone accounted for nearly 70% of the total among none-infant deaths. Excluding leukaemia, 11 out of 39 malignancies were due to cancer of the lung and this disease accounted for **9 out of 21 deaths from cancer among men.** Its relation to cigarette smoking has been too well publicised to need further mention by me at this time but I trust that these figures will serve to bring home its importance.

TABLE I,  
**UNDERLYING CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY**  
**Year 1961**

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Day	1 Day to 1 Week	1 Week to 4 Weeks	4 Weeks to 3 Months	3 Months to 6 Months	6 Months to 1 Year	Totals
Congenital Malformations .....	1	2	3	1	—	—	7
Prematurity .....	2	2	—	—	—	—	4
Birth Injury .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Diseases of Respiratory System .....	1	—	1	1	—	—	3
Rhesus Incompatibility .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Accidental Asphyxia .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS .....	8	4	4	2	1	1	20

TABLE II.

# CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1961

## Registrar-General's Return

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System .....	2	—	2
Tuberculosis, Other .....	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease .....	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach .....	4	2	6
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus .....	9	2	11
Cancer of Breast .....	—	2	2
Cancer of Uterus .....	—	4	4
Other Malignant Diseases .....	8	8	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	—	1	1
Diabetes .....	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	15	16	31
Coronary disease, angina .....	25	15	40
Hypertension with heart disease .....	2	2	4
Other Heart diseases .....	8	5	13
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	5	6	11
Influenza .....	4	6	10
Pneumonia .....	2	9	11
Bronchitis .....	13	1	14
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations .....	5	2	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	—	2
All Other Accidents .....	2	1	3
Suicide .....	—	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War .....	—	—	—
All Other Causes .....	16	11	27
ALL CAUSES .....	125	98	223



## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

### **General Remarks**

There are no items of outstanding importance to relate for the year under review, the incidence of the various diseases being recorded in Table III.

The district health department continued its co-operation with the Public Health Laboratory's research into the incidence of certain virus infections of the bowel among the child population. In connection with this survey a small child was found to be infected with one strain of the virus which causes poliomyelitis though not herself suffering from the disease. The family willingly subjected themselves to certain restrictions and in a short while we obtained negative specimens which enabled me to relax the restrictions. No cases of poliomyelitis occurred in that area.

Towards the end of the year I caused to be introduced Ministry recommended forms for the notification of infectious diseases by doctors, one form to replace the several we were then using. The aim of this was to make the process of notification easier for doctors and also to encourage the full reporting of infectious diseases. There can be little doubt, for example, that the incidence of both bacillary dysentery and food poisoning is considerably underestimated by our official statistics though it must be admitted that knowledge of cases of the former disease can be the cause of a great deal of work by health department staff without, in many instances, tangible benefit to show for the effort in the way of controlling spread. Both these diseases fortunately usually give rise only to mild and shortlived effects.

### **Food Poisoning**

Information from a neighbouring District Medical Officer of Health brought to light the fact that 7 Wednesfield citizens had suffered briefly from food poisoning in a single outbreak. A number of persons in other districts were also affected and the source of infection was believed to be in a factory canteen outside Wednesfield. Specimens from the affected individuals and from the canteen were examined by the responsible health department but no source was firmly indentified. No cases were reported as having arisen in Wednesfield itself during the year.

### **Whooping Cough**

There was a marked fall from 44 to 4 cases notified.

# Measles

As predicted by Doctor Walker, 1961 was a “measles year” with a large number of cases—949. The next epidemic year would be expected in 1963.

# Tuberculosis

At the end of the year there remained on the register 265 persons compared with 327 in 1960. This great decrease does not imply any reduction in the incidence of the disease but merely that our register underwent an extensive overhaul, with the close co-operation of the Chest Clinic at Bell Street. The tranfer of information in recent years had been progressing smoothly but entries from years prior to the establishment of proper administrative machinery in many cases needed amendment due to the reported cases having been cured, left the district, etc.

Indeed, far from the fall in registered cases being suggestive of a falling incidence, there was in fact a most unwelcome increase in the number of cases notified—21 compared with 13 in the previous year. There were also two deaths, both in elderly men. This increase has been given close consideration but it can only be assumed that this was due to a chance variaton in the incidence. The previous year’s experience had in fact been a particularly fortunate one, again due to chance variation, and as recently as 1958 there were as many as 33 cases.

## Cases on Register

Pulmonary	.....	Male	128	Female	117
Non-Pulmonary	.....	Male	7	Female	13

## Cases Notified

1939	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
18	28	36	16	15	15	27	33	16	13	20

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1961  
(or otherwise ascertained)

DISEASES	FINAL NUMBERS AFTER CORRECTION										
	AGE PERIODS—YEARS										
	All Ages	Age Un-known	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 and over	Admitted to Hospital	Otherwise Ascertained	Deaths
Diphtheria, .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	22	—	8	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	2	1	2	3	8	5	2	1	—	2
Other Forms .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	4	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	4	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	949	6	601	295	—	1	—	6	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Food Poisoning .....	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis .....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	1011	15	48	611	313	7	11	6	11	8	2



## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The district is, of course, served by the familiar Family Doctor, Dental and Ophthalmic services which need no further enumeration but there are other services designed to preserve and promote health which largely emanate from Staffordshire County Council and the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The chief officer of the County Council responsible for the Health Services is Dr. G. Ramage, the County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer. For the purpose of administering these services (other than the School Health Service) the County is divided into areas each with an Area Health Committee served by an Area Medical Officer. Wednesfield is in No. 9 area, the Area Medical Officer being Dr. H. A. H. Summers—offices, 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury (Tel. Wednesbury 0961). Some features of the services as experienced locally are :—

**School Health** Services include periodical examination of school children, provision of immunisation facilities, specialist examination and/or treatment of diseases of the ear, nose and throat, dental and ophthalmic clinics, and also speech therapy and physiotherapy clinics. The dental suite in the new combined clinic remained unused during the year but some children and expectant mothers were able to obtain treatment in neighbouring districts.

**Maternity Services** At the end of the year five midwives were practising in the district. Ante-natal clinics were held weekly during the year at the new clinic in Alfred Squire Road, Guest Avenue and Olinthus Avenue. The midwives work with the Family Doctor and with local authority doctors attending at the clinics and in addition to caring for the mothers and babies before and during labour and during the lying-in period are responsible for providing reports on the domestic circumstances of those expectant mothers whose domestic circumstances might provide grounds for hospital confinement. Hospital confinement can also be arranged for those cases where there are particular medical indications. However, during the year under review the proportion of hospital confinements was considerably less than experienced nationally and less than many medical authorities have considered desirable. No doubt this situation will have to be endured until there are more maternity beds available.

**Health Visitors** are very important members of the health team and there were four practising in Wednesfield at the end of the year. They work in homes, schools, and clinics and although their duties are multifarious their function is primarily an advisory and supervisory one. Their work in Wednesfield was concerned mainly with babies and children and mothers

**Infant Welfare Clinics** were held weekly during the year at the three clinics attended by health visitors and local authority doctors. Examinations were made, problems explored, immunisations given, welfare foods distributed. Matters of serious import requiring prompt medical attention are, of course, found in these clinics but it must not be forgotten that there are many problems of lesser importance in themselves, e.g., feeding problems, which can seriously undermine a proper mother-child relationship unless promptly put right.

**Home Nursing** is carried out by District Nurses working in the home on a wide variety of duties under the general direction of the Family Doctors. Four were so employed at the year's end.

**A Day Nursery** in Wednesfield has 26 places for the children of mothers who work (usually through necessity) or who are temporarily or permanently handicapped in the matter of properly caring for their children.

**Immunisation** against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox was carried out by Family Doctors as agents of the County Council and, with the exception of smallpox and tetanus immunisations, the same services were provided in schools and infant welfare clinics. The great demand for immunisation against poliomyelitis during the year made it necessary to continue to hold monthly evening sessions at the Alfred Squire Road clinic and a mobile unit was stationed here for two days in November. With the smallpox scare to come in 1962 it is interesting to note that Dr. Walker in his reports for 1959 and 1960 had made critical comments on the vaccination state of the population and the same state of affairs continued in 1961.

**Home Helps** and neighbourly helps continued to provide valuable assistance in the home for the acute and chronically ill, the infirm, expectant mothers and other groups in need.

**Ambulances** were provided mainly from local stations, the nearest being at Darlaston, from where a 24-hour service was operated with overall radio control from the Tipton station.

**Hospitals and Clinics** for the immediate area and most convenient for Wednesfield residents are :—

GENERAL

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.



## EYE DISEASES

Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Moxley Isolation Hospital, Bilston.

Parkfields Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Kingswinford Isolation Hospital.

## MATERNITY

New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Women's Hospita , Wolverhampton.

## CHEST CLINIC

Bell Street, Wolverhampton.

## VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

## OTHER CONTRIBUTING SERVICES

The **Public Health Laboratory**, Martin Street, Stafford, is used by General Practitioners, Local Authorities and Hospitals for a great variety of bacteriological, virological and serological examinations and its assistance in investigating outbreaks of infectious disease is invaluable.

The **County Analyst** and his staff, also at Stafford, are responsible for analyses of a great variety of chemicals and foods and are often of great assistance to local authorities including that of the Urban District.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

### Water Supply

I am indebted to the Water Engineer, Mr. W. C. Johnson, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., of the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking for the following report on the water supply to the district for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

### Sources of Supply

RIVER WATER ..... River Worfe, Cosford.

BOREHOLES ..... Bore holes at Cosford, Tettenhall.

Dimmingsdale, Hilton, Stableford,  
Bratch and Tomhill Works.



## **Distributed Water**

- (1) The water supply to the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
- (2) Bacteriological analyses of the water have proved satisfactory at all stages of supply.
- (3) There is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action by the water.
- (4) There has been no known contamination of the distributed water.

## **Housing and Inspection and Supervision of Food, and Food Hygiene**

Details of these and associated categories of work are found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## **MISCELLANY**

The following are the times and places where the District Registrar, Mr. A. T. Cook, may be seen each week :

MONDAY	.....	10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Hall Street, Bilston.
		2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Calves Croft, Willenhall.
TUESDAY	.....	10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.
		2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	29, Bolton Road, Wednesfield.
WEDNESDAY		10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.
		2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Willenhall.
THURSDAY	.....	10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.
FRIDAY	.....	10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.
		2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Wednesfield.
SATURDAY	.....	10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.

The information given above is correct at the time of writing and it should be particularly noted that the Registrar is now operating from new premises in Wednesfield.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1961

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MR CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I again have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1961 and in recording the steady progress that has been made in the district as a whole, the tempo of activity was maintained despite sickness and the vacancy that occurred in the staff towards the end of the year, so that Mr. Chairman instead of leaving this comment to the last part of my introductory letter to this report, I give it first place and say, how much I appreciate the co-operation of the members of the staff in the efficient carrying out of the work of the department and of the personal interest taken therein.

To you, Mr. Chairman and members of your Committee for your kindly tolerance and help over the year, I would express my appreciation as indeed to all colleagues of the Council.

During the course of the year no new Smoke Control Order was brought into operation, consolidation of the 3 areas brought into operation in 1960 was continued and many practical demonstrations were carried out on site of fire-lighting and in the giving of information to any who were disturbed or unable to cope in the new approach to the different type of fuels to be used.

In this connection, the West Midlands Gas Board's Mobile Vehicle has done yeoman service too and much education and explanation of the features of smoke control have resulted in the acceptance of this new approach and enquiries are now being received from other areas wishing to know when their turn is coming and there are many who observe that having now got the "hang" of smokeless fuel and appreciated the advantage of the use of the fuel would not return to the burning of bituminous coal under any circumstances.

During this time, however, enquiries and investigations have been undertaken with the view of furthering smoke control and the adding of further areas to those existing and it is anticipated that 1962 will receive an enlargement of areas within the Urban District of Wednesfield.

Slum Clearance Activity has continued quietly and is proceeding largely toward the clearing up of isolated pockets with the exception of the central area which will no doubt need to be developed as a whole and thus introduce some system of order to re-building of the area.

The open-air Market has been well patronised during the year and meets the need for the area whilst some changes and rearrangements are envisaged, there can be no doubt about it that the public do appreciate the market.

During the course of the year the Public Health Act, 1961, was brought into operation giving extra powers in many instances long overdue such as the removal and sealing of old drains in areas of demolished property and when such properties are raised.

A further power was granted to Local Authorities that they could clean up sites of dereliction within limits and charge the cost to public funds, this brings to mind the desecration of many areas of land in all parts of the country by people who wantonly tip their unwanted household and garden refuse on any odd piece of ground that they can see, keeping their own little postage stamp of garden in reasonable shape maybe purchase winning prizes and local competitions by this means but causing public areas to become eye-sores and rubbish dumps.

This is a tragic commentary on the selfishness of the British public, gardeners should dig and bury their material while householders have an opportunity of such surplus material being removed on the payment of a small fee.

In view of the foregoing it is surprising the number of people who complain of the gypsies that periodically invade the area. Yes, they do dump refuse, yes they do make the place unsightly, but they do get moved on, and I would delight to see an improvement in the habits of both bodies of people to the psychological good of the general populous at large.

The Housing Act of 1961 came into force during October of the year giving new legislation with regard to, among other things, houses in multiple occupation and at the conclusion of the year we look forward to anticipation with respect to the regulations which the Minister of Housing and Local Government is to publish in the very near future which will permit of some reasonable approach to the problems of multi occupation which are building up particularly in the main conurbations of large populated areas.

And so on to 1962,

Yours obediently,

P. H. G. GRIMMETT,

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*



## Sanitary Improvements carried out as a result of Inspections and Notices served, both Informal and Statutory

### Dwelling Houses

Doors, windows, flue openings repaired	.....	.....	6
Plasterwork repaired	.....	.....	7
Roofs repaired	.....	.....	6
Eaves gutters repaired	.....	.....	8
Floors repaired	.....	.....	7
Chimney heads, flues repaired	.....	.....	2
Brickwork repaired, repointed	.....	.....	2
Penetrating Rising Dampness obviated	.....	.....	8
Sashcords, fasteners renewed	.....	.....	—
Firegrates repaired.....	.....	.....	—
Stucco work repaired	.....	.....	2
Hot water systems repaired	.....	.....	3
Walls rebuilt	.....	.....	1
Rubbish removed	.....	.....	—
Fencing and gates renewed	.....	.....	2
Houses repainted	.....	.....	—
Quarry floors relaid	.....	.....	1
Staircase repaired, handrails fitted	.....	.....	1
Sub-floor ventilation	.....	.....	—
Outbuilding roofs repaired	.....	.....	4
Cold water storage tank	.....	.....	1

### Water Closets, Wash-houses, etc.

W.C. cisterns renewed	.....	.....	3
W.C. pedestals renewed	.....	.....	5
W.C. seats provided	.....	.....	—
Taps, cocks and water services renewed	.....	.....	—
Sink waste pipes renewed	.....	.....	1
Soil pipes connections to toilets	.....	.....	2
W.W.C. closets converted (Under Sec. 47)	.....	.....	—
(Privately)	.....	.....	—

### Drainage

Onstructed drains cleared	.....	.....	143
Drain water down pipes repaired or renewed	.....	.....	5
Inspection chamber covers renewed	.....	.....	4
Sink waste gullies renewed	.....	.....	—
Drainage altered or repaired	.....	.....	3
Drain surrounds rebuilt	.....	.....	—
Soil pipes connections made good	.....	.....	2
Rodding eyes relocated, inserted	.....	.....	—
Water pipes repaired	.....	.....	—
New sinks provided	.....	.....	—

## Letters and Notices sent out

Preliminary Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Statutory Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Letters (all works)	.....	.....	.....	.....	475

## Work in Default

No cases of default action were necessary during the year.

## Statutory Notices sent out

Section 9 Housing Act, 1957	.....	.....	.....	2
Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	—
Section 45 Public Health Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	2

## House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

Thirty-two applications for standard grants were made under the above Act for investigation by the Department in most cases for completing the 5 standard amenities by the installation of Hot Water Supply, fixed bath or shower and wash basin.

## Public Health Act, 1961

This Act received the Royal Assent 3.8.1961, and apart from enactments relating to building regulations came into force in October, 1961. It generally seeks to incorporate into a principal Act certain powers previously acquired by Private Acts promoted by Local Authorities.

In future when urgent work is necessary to a public sewer the 7 day notice is dispensed with, a summary "immediate action necessary" being sufficient from officer to Authority.

Similarly an authorised officer can proceed to remedy stoppages in drains expeditiously, can enforce repairs to drains after 7 days and recover costs up to £50. An enabling section permits owners to ask the Authority to carry out urgent drainage work on their behalf immediately.

Speeding up of procedure under the old nuisances sections of the Public Health Act is a welcome enactment. The counter notice does to some extent nulify the speed of proceedings particularly the reference to those much maligned expressions "reasonable time or reasonable progress."

Wider powers for dealing with untidy sites, rubbish removal, filthy premises and verminous articles are all notable steps forward.

Stringent measures where notifiable diseases or food poisoning occur are covered within the Act and give a longer reach to the arm of "preventive hygiene."

## **Rent Act, 1957**

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair (I)	.....	2
Granted	.....	2
Refused	.....	—
Undertakings received	.....	1
Undertakings accepted	.....	1
Repairs completed	.....	Nil
Certificates of Disrepair Issued (L)	.....	1
Applications for Cancellation	.....	Nil
Objections received	.....	Nil
Objections not sustained	.....	Nil
Applications for Certificates as to Remedying of Defects (O)	.....	Nil
Applications granted (P)	.....	Nil
Repairs completed	.....	Nil

Activity in this direction has continued to wane through the passing months some measure of agreement seeming to have been attained between landlord and tenant, and I do feel that the Act has had the desired effect only long standing disagreements being referred to the Department for decision.

## **Infectious Diseases, Disinfection and Disinfestation**

Infectious Disease cases which occurred within the district during 1961 necessitated 20 visits in this connection, appropriate disinfection being carried out upon removal to hospital or termination of infective period. In all 75 sprayings were carried out, 1 after Chicken Pox and Mumps, 2 prior to demolition, 1 after replacement of floorboards, 4 for cockroaches, 20 for ants, 4 for fleas and bugs, 23 for woodworm and 20 other sprayings. A continuing complaint of crickets resulted from the dismantling of spoil banks whilst housing development was resolved on the Ashmore Park Estate. Powder blower spraying has been carried out regularly in the area and has been very successful.

## **Public Health Act, 1936 Section 154**

Observations were maintained on rag and bone merchants moving in your district in regard to exchanging articles with children under 15. In no case was an offence noted—warnings being sufficient in each case.

## **Water Sampling**

Two well water samples taken during the year revealed a satisfactory return, these being deep wells still in operation on the Sandpits area.



## HOUSING ACT, 1957

### Section 9

Notices Served	.....	.....	.....	2
Outstanding 31.12.61	.....	.....	.....	Nil

### Section 10

No case necessary.

### Section 76—Overcrowding

88 visits were made in this connection and overcrowding is now almost non-existent in this area. Coloured people occupy some 43 houses in this district, 18 being statutorily overcrowded at 31.12.61. The new Housing Act coming into force in October will open the door for a concerted effort to tackle this problem—regulations made under the Act are eagerly awaited.

### Housing Act, 1961

This Act came into force in November, 1961, and accordingly one had little time to act on it in the year, but an appraisal showed that powers of Local Authorities would be improved from financial assistance improving sub-standard property.

Far greater powers regarding houses let in lodgings were given, with regulations governing houses in multi-occupation being expected soon after the passing of the Act.

I had by the year end reported to Committee regarding the inward movement from the Commonwealth which had precipitated a revision of thought by the Government. This immigration had stepped up from about 42,000 during 1955 to 136,000 during the year ending December, 1961.

I was preparing a Schedule of all multi-occupied houses in the district irrespective of colour, race or creed and was expecting to find somewhere in the region of 40 such houses, 50% of which could be overcrowded.

## REPORT ON SLUM CLEARANCE ACTIVITY

I must again report a marked decline in such activity throughout the year by reason mainly of non-availability of housing accommodation 21 families only being rehoused from approved areas, some 16 houses being demolished.

Apart from 27 Individual Unfit properties requiring determination a further 3 Clearance Areas involving some 44 properties remain to be dealt with, this being in addition to a Central Area containing some 168 unfit properties upon which protracted discussions took place during the year with no action resolved.

No areas were submitted in 1961 only property required to commence the replanning of High Street shopping precinct were dealt with.

The programme is, I fear, 18 months behind schedule and I can only conclude that a more direct approach to tackling the Central Area programme is called for, direct Clearance representation being preferred to negotiation and its attendant time factor.

### **Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders**

<i>Order</i>	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>	<i>Demolished</i>
Rookery Street No. 1 Clearance Area	1954E	1955	14	1955	1955
March End No. 1 Clearance Order	1954E	1955	10	1955	1956
March End No. 2 Clearance Order	1954E	1955	3	1955	1956
High Street No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order	1954E	1955	9	1955	1956
Wood End No. 1 Clearance Order	1955E	1956	3	1956	1956
Wood End No. 2 Clearance Order	1955	1956	7	1956	1956
Cross Street Compulsory Purchase Order	1955	1956	8	1956	1956
Wood End No. 3 Clearance Order	1955E	1957	14	1959	1960
Wood End No. 4 Clearance Order	1956E	1957	9	1957	1960
Rookery Street No. 2 Clearance Order	1956	1957	4	1957	1959
Rookery Street No. 3 Clearance Order	1956	1957	3	1957	1958
Lichfield Road No. 1 Clearance Order	1957E	1958	13	1959	1960
Hickman Street Compulsory Purchase Order	1957E	1959	3	1959	1961
Hall Street Clearance Order	1957	1958	19	1959	1959
Waddens Brook No. 1 Clearance Order	1958	1958	3	1959	1959
Waddens Brook No. 2 Clearance Order	1958	1958	22	1959	1959

## Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders—*continued*

<i>Order</i>	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>	<i>Demolished</i>
Waddens Brook No. 3 Clearance Order	1958	Negotiation	4	1960	1960
Taylor Street No. 1 Clearance Area	1958	„	4	—	—
Wood End No. 5 Clearance Area	1959	„	14	75%	20% dem.
Moat House Lane Clearance Area	1959	„	4	75%	—
March End No. 3 Clearance Area	1959	„	6	—	—
March End No. 4 Clearance Area	1959	„	8	—	—
Lichfield Road No. 2 Clearance Area	1959	„	5	—	—
Hickman Street No. 2 Clearance Area	1959	„	16	25%	—
Hadleys Fold Clearance Area	1960	Re-submitted	—	—	—

### Precautions Before Demolition

16 dwellings were thoroughly disinfected, such treatment proving a highly successful prelude to demolition, closure or removal of tenants.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

### Food Sampling

The following analysis is of milk and food samples taken in the Wednesfield district by Staffordshire County Council.

#### Milk

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	8
Pasteurised .....	4
Sterilised .....	4
	—
TOTAL .....	16 <i>All genuine</i>

#### General Foods

Number of samples taken .....	51
Number of samples genuine .....	48
Number of samples adulterated	3



## Classification of General Foods

Tomato Ketchup	Coffee and Chicory Essence
Ground Almonds	Tea
Cream of Chicken Soup	Loganberries in Syrup
Cambridge Sausages	Raspberries in Syrup
Butter (3 samples)	Fresh Orange Drink
Instant Icing	Cheese Food
Pork Sausage containing	Bouillon Cubes
Preservative (4 samples)	Rose Hip Syrup
Corned Beef with cereal	Calcium with Vitamin D
Swiss Dessert Coffee	Tablets B.P.C.
All Butter Lemon Curd	Influenza Mixture
Celery Salt	Sardine and Tomato Spread
Pickled Gherkins	Cream of Asparagus Soup
Brambles in Heavy Syrup	Orange Squash
Extra Strong Mints	Pork Luncheon Meat (2 samples)
Sherry	Instant Welsh Rabbit
Butter Shortcake Biscuits	Glaze Cherries
Medicated Cream Shampoo	Beetroot in Jelly
Milk Chocolate Covered Honey	Lemon Juice
Crisp	Chicken Curry
Starch Reduced Rolls	Chopped Roast Turkey in Jelly
Ice Cream Mix	Honey and Apple Cider Vinegar
Lemon Juice	Strawberry Jam
Creamed Rice Milk Pudding	Prunes

### Particulars of Adulterated Samples

49 C/G—CORNED BEEF WITH CEREAL—FORMAL

19.6% deficient of its proper Repeat samples genuine proportion of meat.

93 C/H—LEMON JUICE—FORMAL

Sample almost entirely deficient of Vitamin C and does not include the undiluted goodness of sun-ripened lemons as claimed by the label.	Manufacturers advised discuss their labelling problems with the Public Control Officer London County Council
--	--

59 C/J—CREAMED RICE MILK PUDDING—FORMAL

Label unjustifiably claimed	Labels amended
presence of glucose.	

## Food Poisoning

No case of Food Poisoning occurred within the district which reflects greatly on the publicity and emphasis made on this point in the routine visits to Food Preparation Establishments and the nationwide publicity through the medium of Television and Radio, our second clear year but efforts must not cease, lest we forget . . .

## HYGIENE EFFICIENCY TESTS, 1961

Samples taken from	No. taken	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory	% Satisfactory	% unsatisfactory	Colony count		Coliform Test	
						Satis.	Unsat.	Satis.	Unsat.
Social Clubs .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises .....	2	2	0	100.0	—	2	0	2	0
Cafes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canteens .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	2	2	—	100.0	—	2	—	2	—

### Licensed Premises

The 30 licensed premises within the district have been regularly visited during the year, such visits resulting in 2 Informal Notices and the following improvements having been carried out :

Lead sinks replaced .....	—
Extension to W.C. accommodation .....	1
Screening of conveniences.....	1
Repair of Toilet Apartments fittings .....	4
Wash basins provided .....	1
Limewashing of cellars .....	2
Hot water systems .....	—
Glass washing machines .....	—
Polythene feed pipes replacements .....	—
General Decoration .....	—
Ventilation and lighting to W.C.'s .....	—
Drainage repair .....	—

No Notices were outstanding at the end of the year, which indicates the degree of co-operation which exists with the Breweries concerned.

### Mobile Vehicles

The year has produced a further substantial increase in the number of itinerant vendors in the district and the creation of Market Byelaws were under active consideration at year end.

These will, I hope, tend to limit the activity of mobiles on market days but I still hold to the view that individual registration of vans and premises is the only palpable solution to this problem.

## Clean Air Act, 1956

Wednesfield's three smoke control orders continued to operate throughout this test year for our future plans and a crop of difficulties were ironed out as a result of research into each complaint. In our Council Estate Order No. 3 covering over 300 acres and 1,500 properties, all new tenants were visited and advised about Smoke Control, over 100 premises had  $\frac{5}{8}$ " bars installed to replace  $\frac{3}{8}$ " spacings which was found to account for 50% of the complaints. Fuel supplies were adequately maintained thanks to the unflagging attention to detail of the West Midlands Gas Board. They introduced a "trolley service" which found favour on the estate, particularly among the old folks.

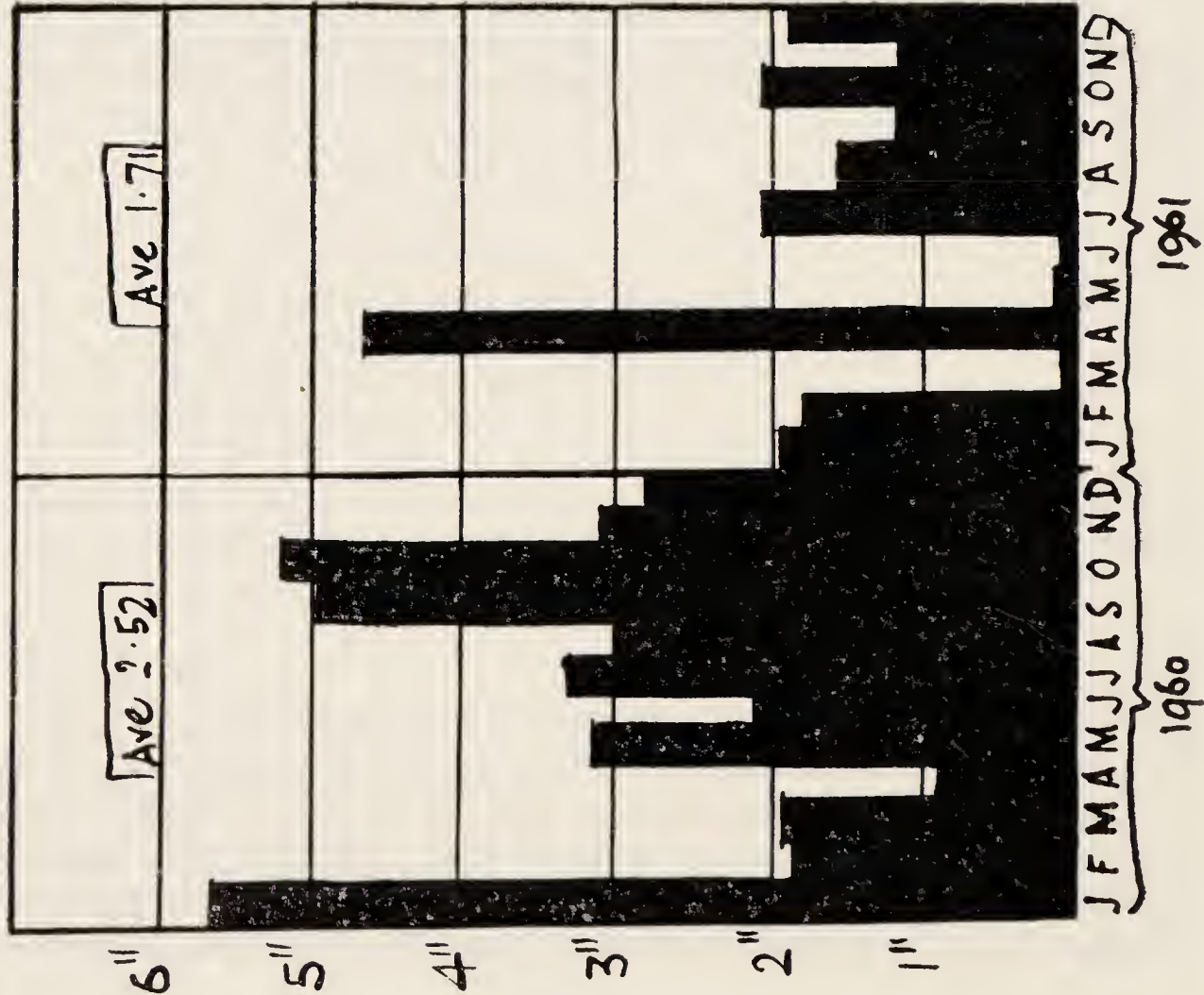
The Coal Utilisation Council and the Gas Board had demonstration units on the area regularly throughout the year and credit to the N.C.B. who maintained good supplies of Warmco and Sunbrite even over the cold winter spells. The Gas Board's Gloco gained favour during the year.

Up to the end of the year 15 warnings had been given to occupiers of dwellings contravening the Order and in only one case was a second offence noted. Here a strong caution with prosecution recommended with any further default had the desired effect.

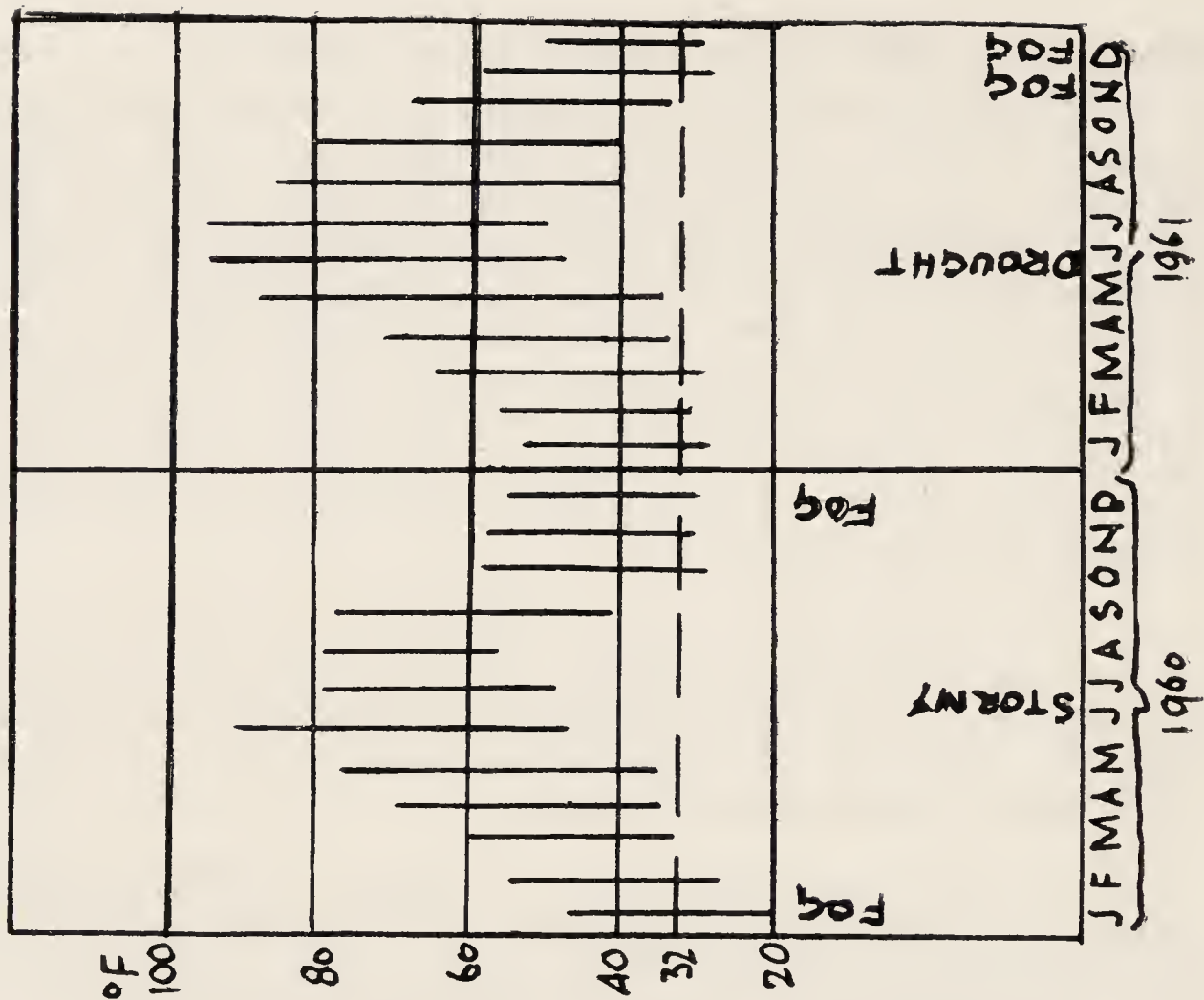
Nineteen sixty one, though a mark time year, had proved the intention of this Authority to proceed with further Orders in the knowledge gained from Nos. 1 and 3 paving the way for a concerted effort in 1962.



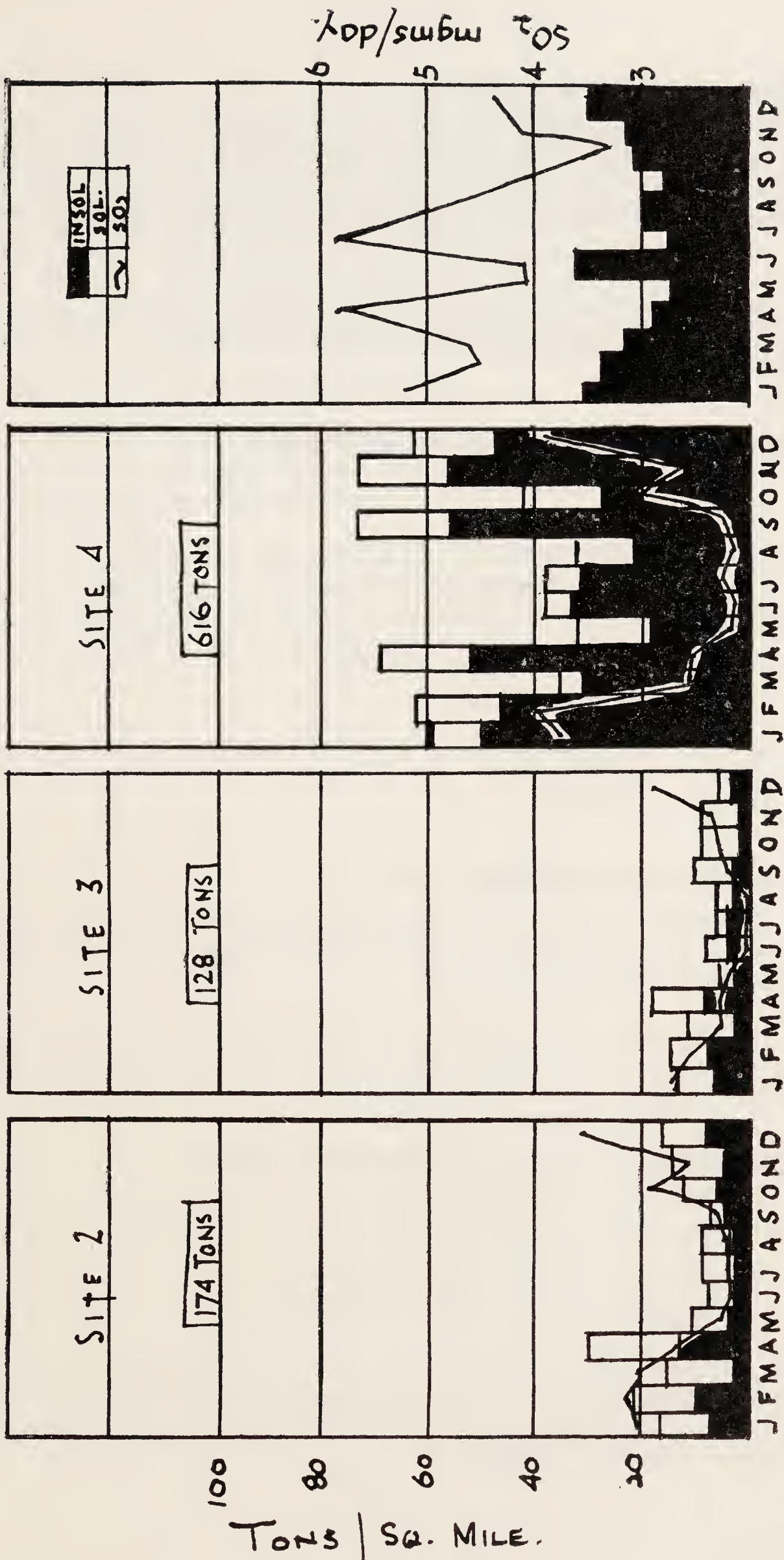
# RAINFALL



# WEATHER CONDITIONS



# ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION 1961



## Noise Abatement Act, 1960

- Limited complaints have been received in respect to noise difficulty in two cases it being concerned with new noise in an already noisy area, which rather like the car driver hearing something different when driving his car, caused enquiry to be undertaken.

Noise complaint was received in respect to the improper use of amplifier equipment in an ordinary domestic dwelling which was satisfactorily resolved after discussion with the owners of the equipment.

## Types of Food Shops in the Urban District

Grocers	.....	.....	.....	71
Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	28
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	26
Sweets and Confectionery	.....	.....	.....	8
Cafes	.....	.....	.....	5
Fish and Chip Saloons	.....	.....	.....	6
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	—
Off-Licences	.....	.....	.....	4
Chemists	.....	.....	.....	6
Bakery	.....	.....	.....	1

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

During the year 125 inspections have been made to the 181 food shops in the district and I am pleased to report that the general standard remains high.

There have been some 12 new food shops erected or opened during this year, all designed in close liaison with your Health Department.

## Improvements carried out under Notice include

Hot Water Geysers renewed or repaired (Reg. 15)	5
First Aid Equipment (Reg. 17)	5
Floors and Walls repaired (Reg. 23)	10
Mobile Vehicles named (Reg. 26/28)	2

In all, eight warnings were issued with regard to smoking offences particularly in delivery vans and it was also necessary to issue final warnings in the case of two food salesmen not wearing proper protective clothing.



## **Meat Inspection**

Once again as in 1959 a 100% Meat Inspection was maintained despite certain staff difficulties towards the end of the year. One slaughterhouse was relicensed until October, 1962, bearing in mind the impact of the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959, and Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction, 1959, which considerations were well under way at the year end.

Tuberculosis in Cattle was absent throughout the year. 4 cwts. of meat was condemned as unfit for consumption, 2 cysticercus bovis were discovered both in the head.

No pigs were killed as a result of one slaughterhouse closing down due to the Slaughterhouses Act, he being unable to meet the requirements of the Regulations.

The Slaughterhouse Report for the Wednesfield Urban District was duly submitted in accordance with Ministerial requirement and negotiations were begun for the acquisition of the one remaining private slaughterhouse for public use.

January 1st. to December 31st, 1961

Cattle—No. of carcasses inspected ..... 75

DISEASES	Carcas- es	Head	Lungs	Liver	Heart	Kid- neys	Spleen	Intest- ines	Other
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Angiomatosis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
Hydatids	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Other	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—





**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned  
in whole or in part**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed .....	75	Nil	9	508	—	—
Number inspected .....	75	Nil	9	505	—	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</b> Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	18	—	—	28	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis .....	24%	0%	0%	5.5%	0%	—
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b> Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	4	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ....	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	—
<b>Cysticercosis.</b> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

## Food Inspection

During the course of the year the undermentioned items of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

72 lb. 14 oz. Boneless Cooked Ham	Putrefaction and liquefaction of Gelatine
236 lb. Beef Meat	Bone Taint
24 lbs. 12 oz. Corned Meat	Mould and Putrefaction
11 lbs. 5 oz. Gammon Ham	Decomposition
6 lbs. Corned Mutton	Mould and Putrefaction

a total of 15 cwts. 11 lbs. 5 ozs. of food as a result of some 150 visits to shops, cafes, markets and wholesalers.

The decision to make a nominal charge for condemnation certificates, thus annulling the "rubber stamp" effect of the Public Health Inspector and calling on expert judgement of the surrendered article, has, I feel, had the desired effect. Traders now have minor tinned articles replaced by the manufacturers directly which arrangement functioned most satisfactorily throughout the year.

## Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district but two new licences were issued during the year, the proviso being made that a wrapped commodity only may be sold where trades were mixed. Hot water geysers were required and provided, 66 premises and 3 mobile vehicles now retail Ice Cream, 128 visits were made.

Towards year end it was necessary to remind several notable Food Companies that certain jam cake rolls containing Ice Cream must be sold *only* from premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Clarifications led to compliance without recourse to further action.

## Wednesfield's First Open Market

This was officially opened on December 16th, 1960, after prolonged negotiation and deliberation as to control and demand for such a market.

It was decided to limit the stalls, which are all open, to general sales and food sales of the greengrocery, fish, fruit and vegetables varieties only. No open food is sold from the market.

Covered accommodation for open food sales is now being investigated and will, I feel, maintain a flourish to the market and keep the people of Wednesfield "at home" and also encourage more vendors to the district.

## **Fish and Chip Saloons**

There are now 5 registered saloons in the district. No new licence was granted, 21 visits were made and one shop closed down.

## **Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

### **Food not of the Nature or Substance or Quality demanded**

Several cases arose during the year which necessitated report to Health Committees and a general summary is appended herewith:

1. CIDER with Petrol Odour

A strong odour of petrol and a bitter taste led me to take this matter up with the producers concerned. A visit to the bottling plant revealed the usual stringent precaution one would expect including two "sighters" who, however, could not have detected this particular offence.

Alterations in method of inspection and a change in the nature of detergents used has since been carried out at the plant.

2. CORNED BEEF—Contaminated Contents.

Investigations were under way at year end in this case where a reputable firm's article was sold in can and found on opening to be dehydrated and mouldy.

3. TINNED CREAM—Containing piece of string

Here was a good case of human error, the only possible method of entry being on the filler table where, for a few brief, vital seconds, the tin is open at the top prior to lid placing and closure.

4. CAKE with bitter taste

White speckles on the base of the cake were analysed and proved to be nothing more than Bicarbonate of Soda—an ingredient. Being unsatisfactorily mixed an excessive accumulation of the soda in one spot gave a bitter taste.

5. FRUIT CAKE containing wire.

A piece of wire in the substance drew immediate visits to the Bakery concerned. Here the mechanical element was at fault the metal detector failing to pick up the rusty wire.

6. DIRT in bread

Analysis revealed this to be dirty dough which gained access to the bread at the dough mix stage of handling. Visits were made to the Bakery and suggestions made.



- |                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 7. BLOOD Spots in Milk | } | Still under consideration for<br>prosecution at year end. |
| 8. WATER in Milk       |   |   |

9. BREAD—Containing felt

Sale of this bread led to a Court Action as this was the second occasion on which the Bakery had defaulted. The Bakery had been previously advised regarding a possible breakdown in the loading-in section of the ovens and offered no reasonable explanation.

The Magistrates Court fined the Company £20. 0. 0d. with £3. 3s. 0s. costs.

10. CANNED BEANS containing string

The string had inadvertantly entered the feeder line from the hessian bag tie. The firm admitted that after the long hot summer of '59, crops were exceptionally heavy and the beans large. The snibbing and slicing machines worked to full capacity and in some cases the work was done by hand using inexperienced labour.

Strong warnings were issued to Cases 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10 and prosecution undertaken with No. 9. Nos. 7 and 8 awaited a legal investigation.

### Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

A deposition of glass, crates and bottles on the roadside has continued to receive attention by the Department and Dairies concerned, and in the main circumstances have been much improved during the year. Excellent co-operation has been obtained during the year in the removal of school milk bottles during holiday periods.

### Mortuary

During the year a total of 26 bodies have been admitted to the Council's Mortuary and post-mortem results revealed the following causes of death :

Coronary Thrombosis	.....	.....	.....	10
Heart Failure	.....	.....	.....	5
Gas Poisoning (Suicide)	.....	.....	.....	—
Barbiturate Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	.....	.....	.....	1
Head Injuries (Industrial Accident)	.....	.....	.....	1
Ruptured Heart	.....	.....	.....	3
Asphyxia	.....	.....	.....	3
Drowning	.....	.....	.....	—
Premature Birth	.....	.....	.....	2

Active consideration is now being given to the building of a new Mortuary of ultra-modern design in the centre of the district.

### **Clean Air Act, 1956**

The level of the pollution in the area has shown a slight variation, there being less pollution recorded in the domestic areas and slightly more in the industrial areas with yet some noticeable reduction in sulphur dioxide. It is evident that the creation of Smoke Control Areas does give a cleaner atmosphere, particularly noticeable on foggy days, and I feel, completely smoke free atmosphere will give as new conception of respiratory health and also permit of more concentrated approach to rid the atmosphere of invisible pollutants also.

The district has continued to see and feel the effects of certain industrial plant in the area, the responsibility of the Alkali Inspectorate is without doubt fully aware of the local authority's views in the matter and it is now that efforts are being maintained in an endeavour to overcome the difficulty which arises from the particular operating at the works in question.

### **Litter Act, 1958**

Personal approaches to people observed infringing the Litter Act have had a desired effect in that in their conversation with others comment has been made which mitigates against the cruelly legal approach sometimes undertaken.

In an instance concerning school children at end of term (may be tearing their report up before getting home) such children were made to pick up every bit of paper and a letter sent to the Headmasters of all schools for public announcement to be made in respect to such actions. Further litter baskets in the shopping areas have helped in this matter.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

One premise remains licensed in this connection, conditions being maintained very satisfactory. Two visits were made.

### **Registration of Old Metal Dealers. Public Health Amendments Act, 1907—Section 86**

Four dealers are registered under this section and operate in the district, surveillance having been maintained throughout the year in full co-operation with the Local Police Inspector. Three visits were made.

### **Caravan Sited and Control of Development Act, 1960**

Two caravans are now licensed in Wednesfield, both being occupied on "caretaker" basis.

Including those paid to Gypsy Encampment a total of 62 visits were made during the year.

### **Gypsies**

Several incursions were made into the district during the year and in two instances it was necessary to forcibly eject the caravaners failing co-operation on their part in moving.

Four sites remained closed during the year the insertion of concrete fence posts and ditching by the land owner concerned has had the desired effect.

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949**

The tempo of activity under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act has speeded up throughout the year, there being more definite control now on premises other than domestic dwellings, eight schools, seven factories, two new school sites, bakery and slaughterhouse all receiving specialised treatments throughout the year. An income of £170. 0s. 0d. accrued from such treatments.

One sewer treatment was carried out, with excellent results and, generally speaking, the Wednesfield district remains clear of serious infestation.

The following tables give details of activity undertaken.



# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for period 1st January to 31st December, 1961.

## 1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

	Total (i)	Number of Properties in Local Authority's Area in which Infestation was			Analysis of Column (iv)		
		Notified by Occupier (ii)	Otherwise discovered (iii)	Recorded Total of (ii) & (iii) (iv)	Number infested by		Mice , nly (vii)
					Major (v)	Minor (vi)	
Local Authority's Property .....	7	5	1	5	2	3	—
Dwelling House ( <i>Estimate</i> ) .....	8,250	201	28	229	12	145	29
Business Premises .....	340	21	1	22	8	10	1
Agricultural Property .....	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
TOTAL .....	8,598	228	30	258	22	158	30

## 2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	No. of Properties inspected	No. of Inspections made	Number of Notices served under Section 4		Number of Treatments carried out				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement			
			Treatments		By arrangement with occupier	Under Section 5 (1)			No. of Blocks	Surface	Assoc. Sewers	No. of Man-holes treated
Local Authority's Property	6	21	—	—	3	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dwelling House .....	229	917	—	—	18	223	—	—	6	16	—	12
Business Premises .....	8	86	—	2	8	8	—	—	1	12	—	10
Agricultural Property .....	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	244	1025	—	2	30	236	—	—	8	28	—	22

The estimated kill for the whole 12 months is as follows :—

Business Premises .....	36 rats.	56 mice.
Private Dwellings .....	120 "	280 "
Urban District Council Premises .....	20 "	25 "

These figures do not include agricultural premises where dismantled ricks would add to the estimated kill.

## **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958**

### **Prevention of Cruelty Regulations, 1958**

3 Slaughtermen were licensed in the district. In each case a copy of the above regulations was enclosed. None are licensed to slaughter horses.

### **Shops Act, 1950**

270 shops are on the register of the Urban District, all being satisfactorily maintained against the requirements of the Shops Act, 181 are food shops, the remaining 89 being divided as follows :

Drapery, Millinery, Haberdashery .....	20
Wireless, Cycle T.V. and Electric Stores .....	9
Hairdressing .....	15
Tobacconists .....	1
Newsagents/Tobacco .....	12
Boot and Shoe Repairers .....	8
Hardware and Ironmongery .....	6
Dry Cleaners .....	4
Post Offices .....	5
Watch and Clock Repairers, Jewellery .....	1
Corn Stores .....	1
Pet Shop .....	1
Libraries .....	2
Gas Appliances .....	1
Garden Tools and Timber.....	1
Toys, Perambulators .....	3
Wallpapers, Paints.....	3
Footwear .....	1
Outfitters' .....	1
Car Spares .....	1

Certain of the above combine trades under one roof. All were conducted satisfactorily under the Shops Act legislation.

Continual observations have been made in respect to Shops Act legislation as such and no extreme contravention has been observed during the year under review.



## **Population**

Rough figures and estimates are maintained in regard to the estimated population of the district incorporating the influx population as a result of Overspill Building Scheme, and agreement with the County Council and the County Borough of Wolverhampton. I estimate the population of the district at the year end to be 33,500.

## **Factories Act, 1937**

The Table (page 44) reveals that the tempo of activity under this Act has not been maintained throughout the year, due in the main to pressure of other work. New development in your Southern area (keeping industry in this zone) remains of a high standard although difficulty is still experienced in the Hickman Street area which is the subject of procedure under the Housing Acts, where major works cannot be morally enforced due to the indefinite life of the property.

## **Odour from Sewage Works**

Following several complaints during the previous year of odours from the sludge drying beds, experimentation with Osmix Spray guns was undertaken with the co-operation of the firm providing the equipment and the results of such experimentation have proved most successful.

I am informed however that the long awaited sewerage of the industrial area is now going forward—which in itself is a pleasing factor—tempered by the fact that reception capacity at the Sewage Works must first again be extended to meet this varying effluent.

# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

## Factories Act 1937

### 1.—INSPECTIONS

for purposes of provisions as to health  
Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors

Premises	Number of		
	Factories on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with mechanical power .....	90	16	3
Factories without mechanical power	26	6	—
Other premises under the Act (including works or building and engineering construction but not including outworker's premises). ....	32	16	—
TOTAL .....	148	38	3

### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) .....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) .....	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) .....	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) insufficient .....	2	2	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	2	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	6	4	—	—

Outworkers numbered 4, 1 boxmaker, 2 apparel repairers, and 1 jewel setter, all of which were maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.





